

Madelyn Weiss  
1835 San Ramon Avenue  
Berkeley CA 94707

Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I recently had the opportunity to switch from a large telecom DSL provider (AT&T) to a local broadband provider, Sonic, that recently built a fiber network in my neighborhood. Sonic also provides us with VOIP, which we also had with AT&T. Thanks to Sonic's fiber network, we now have much faster and more reliable internet service, the ability to use both Wifi and ethernet at the same time (which our AT&T router didn't let us do), better phone service, and all at a very competitive price with AT&T. The customer service, which is local, is much better as well.

What does this mean to us as customers? We got a great deal with better service and better performance, and we are supporting an internet provider that is local to our community and that hires members of our local community in all aspects of their business, including tech support (unlike AT&T which outsources most of their tech support to the Philippines). We had a real choice, and thanks to competition, I feel that we consumers in our area came out ahead for once.

I understand that the large telecom companies, which are losing business to smaller companies like Sonic, are trying to make it harder for these smaller companies to install their fiber networks by denying them access to critical unbundled network elements, such as copper lines, that are part of the large telecom's infrastructure. Allowing AT&T and other large telecom companies to do this would be anti-competitive, since companies, such as Sonic, would then no longer be able to easily add new giga-fiber customers, meaning less choice, worse service and higher prices for everyone. Please follow the intent of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and don't change the current system.

Madelyn Weiss